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Jack Guinn Says:

Better to Make Jokes Than a Poor Mouth

IF THERE'S anything they need in Washington it's somebody to write calm statements about calamities and think up sneaky maneuvers to save face. The way things are going it's enough to make you hate honesty.

It was bad enough when they admitted that poor Mr. Powers, the U2 pilot, was a spy, but now they're losing their tempers and hollering out insults at Bernon Mitchell and William Martin, the two code clerks from the National Security Agency who ran off to Moscow. President Eisenhower says they are traitors and the Defense Department says they're liars.



Guinn

Obviously that's the truth, but where does it get you? Think of the thousands of homes that would be broken today, the millions of poor little children turned loose on the streets to break windows and rob old ladies, if everybody insisted on going home every night and telling the truth.

Consider what Machiavellian instincts have done to preserve the American way of life and then ask yourself why we can't expect a little of this same thoughtful effort from our leaders.

It's too late now and all we can do is suffer along with them, but just imagine what fun it would be if Washington had used some imagination.

It would have been very simple to say nothing and arrange for the Russians to get their hands on a secret message such as this from the U. S. embassy in Moscow to the CIA in Washington:

"Mitchell and Martin act great success. Next time China-Kremlin argument lags they will slip old Khrushy the poison chop suey."

The Contest

First thing you know collecting defectors will turn into more of a contest than the missiles race and all that's going to do is add to the confusion.

We'll be like Jose Jimenez, the comic, who was asked if he thought we'd get to the moon before Russia.

"Well," he said, "the moon is much farther away."

False Report

It came as a great relief out our way to learn that it wasn't true our athletes at the Olympics in Rome had been lying it up, as was charged, on wine, women and song. It's bad enough that pride has to suffer without giving everything else a bad name.

Actually, we never thought for a minute there was any truth to the report. Even before Tug Wilson, president of the U. S. Olympic Committee, issued his statement that it was a case of mistaken identity we had figured out that's what it was.

One of our fellows, who's done some traveling himself, was quick to point out during our discussion that at this time of the year there are always a lot of people sitting around in Rome saloons wearing U.S. insignia.

He said he knew right away that the charges didn't ring true because he knows it to be a fact that American tourists, sulted up or not, don't devote a lot of time to song.

Besides, he said, the whole thing was economically unsound. Anything the average athlete could afford wouldn't just make him run second, he'd be lucky to be alive.

Boom in Sight

Dr Rutherford L. Decker, the Prohibition Party candidate for president, was just through town talking against saloons and among other things he said he expects prohibition to set in again sometime between 1965 and 1970.

He may be right, although that's about the same schedule the space people have picked for man launching and it doesn't seem possible they can handle this on tranquilizer pills alone.

Anyway, it's interesting to speculate on what this might do for the economy, particularly in the home building game. Houses are bound to cost more in the dry days to come because basements will have to be more elaborately equipped.

After all, you can't make gin in a shower.